

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



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This report presents the results of a reconnaissance survey of historic resources in the study area of the SR 1 Little Heaven Interchange project. A total of 41 historic resources were surveyed in the project study area, 14 of which had been previously identified. During the survey, it was discovered that seven of the previously identified resources have been demolished; CRS update forms were provided for these properties. In addition, an eighth resource, the Appel Marine Property, was demolished during the course of this survey. One resource, the Jehu Reed House (CRS #K-137), was previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Although the Jehu Reed House has suffered some physical deterioration, the Jehu Reed House maintains good historic architectural integrity and A.D. Marble & Company recommends that it continue to meet the eligibility criteria established by the NPS (NPS 1997). Properties that previously contained historic buildings but that have been demolished may have potential as archaeological resources; and this will be addressed in a separate report.

Not including the Jehu Reed House, 32 standing resources were evaluated against the criteria established by the NPS (1997), and in relationship to the quality of expected historic property types for the survey area. One resource, the Mt. Olive Colored School, is recommended eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its importance as a locus of rural African-American education in Delaware and Criterion C as an example of the 1920s Colonial Revival schools designed specifically for Delaware by nationally-renowned school architect James Oscar Betelle. A DOE form was completed for this resource (see Volume II).

The remaining 31 surveyed properties are recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. None of these resources are good examples of their respective property types. The vast majority are residential buildings, most of which were built during the mid-twentieth century. Many have witnessed alterations over the years, and none are especially high-quality examples of their types. There are no potential historic districts in the study area, either residential or otherwise. There are several commercial and transportation resources, such as Dare's Supermarket (CRS #K-7348) and Cain's Furniture (a former gas station), but none of these meet the eligibility requirements for listing in the National Register. Others, such as CRS

#K-7355 and CRS #K-7354 were commercial properties historically, and are now solely used as residences; and neither of these would meet eligibility requirements for commercial and/or transportation property types. No religion resources were found within the project APE.

A number of agricultural resources would have been expected in the study area; however, many of these have been demolished since they were surveyed on CRS forms in the early 1980s (see Table II). For example, CRS #sK-2731, K-2724, K-2722, K-2723 appear to have been agricultural resources based on the photographs in the CRS forms. Extant farms within the study area lack the minimum requirements for eligibility as a historic farm. For example, while the buildings at the Webb Property (CRS #K-7351) are located amidst agricultural lands, the house, barn(s), and many of the associated outbuildings are no longer standing. The W. Townsend Property (CRS #K-2726) is another example of a farm in the project area; in this case, nearly all of the historic outbuildings have been razed and/or replaced, and although the farmhouse is still extant, it has been altered extensively. In addition, CRS #K-2700 on Mulberrie Point Road, is still surrounded by agricultural lands, but the house has been moved and has witnessed alterations and additions, and the property lacks all its agricultural outbuildings. As noted above, properties that previously contained standing historic buildings, but which have been demolished may have potential as archaeological resources; and this will be addressed in a separate report.

For the Jehu Reed House, although it is assumed that the National Register boundary coincides with the tax parcel; the National Register nomination form does not include a boundary description. Therefore, if the proposed undertaking produces visual and/or other indirect or direct impacts, a definitive National Register boundary may need to be established for this resource. A recommended National Register boundary for the Mt. Olive Colored School is included in the DOE form in Volume II of this report. The boundary extends to the limits of the present tax parcel.